WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An authentication apparatus
comprising:
        an acquiring section to acquire first feature
information;
10 an extracting section to extract, from a
database which registers feature information in
correspondence with each user, a user corresponding
to feature information having a degree of matching
exceeding a predetermined value with respect to the
15 first feature information; and
        a registering section to register the first
feature information in the database together with
accessory information related to said feature
information.
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2. The authentication apparatus as
25 claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
        a control section to output a message urging
changing of parameters indicating feature
information reading conditions and re-reading of the
first feature information if a number of the feature
30 information having the degree of matching exceeding
the predetermined value exceeds a specific value, so
as to acquire the re-read first feature information
by said acquiring section.

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3. The authentication apparatus as
claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
        a control section to urge the user to read
second feature information and acquire the read
5 second feature information by said acquiring section
if a number of the feature information having the
degree of matching exceeding the predetermined value
exceeds a specific value.

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4. The authentication apparatus as
claimed in claim 3, wherein said registering section
15 registers the second feature information in the
database.

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        5. The authentication apparatus as
claimed in claim 3, wherein the first feature
information and the second feature information are
the sake kind of feature information or mutually
25 different kinds of feature information.

30   6. An authentication apparatus
comprising:
        an acquiring section to acquire personal
identification information and feature information
of a user;
35   a obtaining section to read, from a database
having registered feature information in
correspondence with at least personal identification

information, registered feature information and
accessory information respectively corresponding to
the acquired personal identification information,
and to obtain a degree of matching of the acquired
5   feature information and the registered feature
information read from the database; and
        a confirming section to confirm the user
identified by the acquired personal identification
information if a degree of matching of the
10 registered feature information read from the
database and each registered feature information
corresponding to personal identification information
indicated by the accessory information read from the
database is smaller than the degree of matching
15 obtained by said obtaining section.

20   7.   An authentication apparatus
comprising:
        an acquiring section to acquire first and
second feature information of a user;
        an extracting section to extract, from a
25 database which registers first and second registered
feature information together with accessory
information related to predetermined users for which
a degree of matching of the first registered feature
information exceeds a predetermined value, specific
30 accessory information corresponding to the first
registered feature information having a degree of
matching which is a maximum value with respect to
the acquired first feature information; and
        a confirming section to confirm the user if a
35 degree of matching of the acquired second feature
information and the second registered feature
information registered in the database in

correspondence with the first registered feature information having the degree of matching which is the maximum value is greater than a degree of matching of the acquired second feature information and the second registered feature information corresponding to the specific accessory information.

8. The authentication apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first feature information and the second feature information are the same kind of feature information or mutually different kinds of feature information.

9. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a computer program for causing a computer to carry out an authentication process, said computer program comprising:

an acquiring procedure causing the computer to acquire first feature information;

an extracting procedure causing the computer to extract, from a database which registers feature information in correspondence with each user, a user corresponding to feature information having a degree of matching exceeding a predetermined value with respect to the first feature information; and

a registering procedure causing the computer to register the first feature information in the database together with accessory information related to said feature information.

10. The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 9, wherein the computer program further comprises:

5   a control procedure causing the computer to output a message urging changing of parameters indicating feature information reading conditions and re-reading of the first feature information if a number of the feature information having the degree of matching exceeding the predetermined value

10   exceeds a specific value, so as to acquire the re-read first feature information by said acquiring section.

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11. The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 9, wherein the computer program further comprises:

20   a control procedure causing the computer to urge the user to read second feature information and acquire the read second feature information by said acquiring section if a number of the feature information having the degree of matching exceeding

25   the predetermined value exceeds a specific value.

30   12. The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 11, wherein said registering procedure causes the computer to register the second feature information in the database.

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13. The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first feature information and the second feature information are the sake kind of feature information or mutually different kinds of feature information.

14. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a computer program for causing a computer to carry out an authentication process, said computer program comprising:

an acquiring procedure causing the computer to acquire personal identification information and feature information of a user;

a obtaining procedure causing the computer to read, from a database having registered feature information in correspondence with at least personal identification information, registered feature information and accessory information respectively corresponding to the acquired personal identification information, and to obtain a degree of matching of the acquired feature information and the registered feature information read from the database; and

a confirming procedure causing the computer to confirm the user identified by the acquired personal identification information if a degree of matching of the registered feature information read from the database and each registered feature information corresponding to personal identification information indicated by the accessory information read from the database is smaller than the degree of matching obtained by said obtaining section.

15. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a computer program for causing a computer to carry out an authentication process, said computer program comprising:

5   an acquiring procedure causing the computer to acquire first and second feature information of a user;

an extracting procedure causing the computer to extract, from a database which registers first and

10   second registered feature information together with accessory information related to predetermined users for which a degree of matching of the first registered feature information exceeds a predetermined value, specific accessory information

15   corresponding to the first registered feature information having a degree of matching which is a maximum value with respect to the acquired first feature information; and

a confirming procedure causing the computer to

20   confirm the user if a degree of matching of the acquired second feature information and the second registered feature information registered in the database in correspondence with the first registered feature information having the degree of matching

25   which is the maximum value is greater than a degree of matching of the acquired second feature information and the second registered feature information corresponding to the specific accessory information.

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16. The computer-readable storage medium

35   as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first feature information and the second feature information are the same kind of feature information or mutually

different kinds of feature information.

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